

Montessori Approach for Aging and Dementia

Two Day Workshop with Jennifer Brush, a Leading Expert in the Field



Montessori for Aging and Dementia is an innovative approach to dementia care that can be adopted for individuals or groups as a philosophy of care. The goal of the Montessori philosophy is to support people with dementia by treating them with respect and dignity – enabling them to make choices and to live as independently as possible.

About Montessori

Dr. Montessori's mission was to enable individuals to:

- Be as independent as possible.
- Have a meaningful place in their community.
- Possess high self-esteem.
- Have the chance to make meaningful contributions to their community.

The Montessori approach enhances quality of life for people living with dementia. Activities are developed for each individual, which are meaningful to that person – giving each person the opportunity to enjoy an enriched life.

Research has provided clear evidence of increased levels of engagement in activities when Montessori approaches are implemented and associated decreases in the behaviors of unmet needs when people are actively engaged in meaningful activity.

Montessori principles result in increased safety, reduced agitation and wandering, and promote improved quality of life, self-esteem and independence. They give residents a reason to get out of bed every day and can complement other models of care.

Bring the Montessori Approach to Your Care Community

To create meaningful activities and roles, Jennifer Brush will teach your staff to:

- Find the person behind the dementia.
- Match strengths with personal history.
- Foster social connections and friendships.
- Repeat activities to develop routine, build confidence and self-esteem.
- Create meaningful roles and activities.
- Consider needs of the person.
- Provide cues, prompts, manipulatives and templates to support the person's memory loss.

This two-day program, given at your care community, focuses on the Montessori for Aging and Dementia program criteria as established by the Association Montessori Internationale. Each participant will receive a certificate of completion from Brush Development. This is the first step to becoming a Certified Practitioner.

All staff in your community should attend the workshop as Montessori methods can be implemented by a range of people including, family members, nurses, support staff, physical therapists, occupational therapists, speech therapists, nursing assistants, social workers, volunteers and community support workers.



Jennifer Brush

Jennifer Brush, MA, CCC/SLP is an international speaker/educator and recognized speech-language pathologist known for her work in the area of dementia. She has served as the Principal Investigator on applied research grants that have examined issues pertaining to dementia, hearing impairment, dining, dysphagia and the long-term care environment. Jennifer has been appointed by the Executive Director of Association Montessori Internationale (AMI) to serve as an inaugural member of the Advisory Group for Montessori for Aging and Dementia. She is one of two dementia care experts in the U.S. who is part of this group. The Advisory Group was responsible for writing the AMI standards for Montessori dementia programs. Jennifer presented her research in the area of dementia at both International Conferences for Montessori Environments for Dementia in Sydney, Australia and lectured at the annual AMI meeting in Amsterdam, Netherlands.



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Workshop Agenda

Introduction to the Montessori Method

- Montessori as an aid to life for people with dementia.
- Components of the Montessori Method that work in the care community.
- Underlying values and principles of the Montessori approach and how they inform the performance and job responsibilities of care teams.

The Whole Person

- Components of individualized care and the role of the healthcare professional.
- Overview of dementia and neurocognitive disorders.
- Assessments and interviews for program development

Cognition

- Process of memory formation and effective memory interventions.
- Types of memory and how each are effected in dementia.
- Communication and dementia

Prepared Environment

- Principles of a Montessori prepared environment and design guidelines for people with dementia.
- Link between the social, physical and organization environment and how it impacts behaviors.
- Environmental interventions based on dementia care best practices.

Independence

- Identify the needs, desires, and roles of a person with dementia.
- Learn to create meaningful and accessible activities that maintain roles, needs, and desires.
- Discover the goals of Montessori interventions.

Observation

- Observation as a part of the ongoing care plan.
- Assessment of the strengths of the person with dementia
- Care plans based on observations and how to change that plan as the person changes.

Memory and Independence Support Demonstrations

- Participate in practical demonstrations of the use of task breakdown, spaced retrieval training, way finding and/or visual cues.
- Demonstrate activities for visual, tactile and auditory experiences, eye-hand co-ordination and/or fine and gross motor movement.

Culture of Care

- Steps for creating a culture that reflects Montessori values.
- Teams in the care community that will be able to build and lead the Montessori Philosophy of Care.



Association Montessori Internationale Practitioner Certificate in Montessori for Aging and Dementia Certification Assessment Requirements

If you are undertaking Certification Assessment for this course:

- You have completed the two-day AMI Montessori for Aging and Dementia Workshop.
- You understand the principles and techniques for developing and implementing Montessori for Aging and Dementia.
- Therefore, if deemed competent, you will be qualified as an AMI Montessori for Aging and Dementia Certified Practitioner, to develop and implement this innovative intervention for older adults and people with dementia and to serve as a resource for others in your care setting.
- The two-day AMI Montessori for Aging and Dementia Workshop and certification assessment requirements do not qualify you to teach or train others in Montessori for Aging and Dementia. An AMI Educator's Certification is required to teach the AMI Montessori for Aging and Dementia curriculum.

The Assessment Process includes the following:

- Completion of the two-day AMI Montessori for Aging and Dementia Workshop
- Identification of an AMI Educator to serve as your Practitioner Certification Mentor
- Read the suggested reading material.
- Completion of at least two case studies (three are preferred). Partner with at least two people living with dementia and complete the procedures and forms associated with the case study requirements. For each case study you must:
 - Create a meaningful activity using templates and/or other materials. You must submit the template and/or other materials with all other assessment forms, including any examples of extension or expansion programming if developed.
 - Create instructions to enable other staff or family to implement the activity.
 - Document 10 interactions you have completed with the person living with dementia on the Montessori Record Keeping Log. Please video record one session of you implementing the activity with the individual and submit it electronically to your AMI Educator. If this is not possible, please contact your AMI Educator to make other arrangements.
- Develop a Role and accompanying Routine.
 - Create instructions to enable other staff or family to implement the role.
 - Document 10 interactions you have completed with the person living with dementia on the Montessori Record Keeping Log. Please video record one session of you facilitating the role with the individual and submit it electronically to your AMI Educator. If this is not possible, please contact your AMI Educator to make other arrangements.

- Ask an appropriate supervisor to authenticate all interactions completed by completing the Supervisor's Form.
- Write at least a 500-word paper discussing lessons learned from participation in the training and your experience of implementing some of the Montessori principles. It should include any successes and challenges you may have experienced.
- Complete a written examination based on the topics covered in the two-day workshop and the suggested reading. This examination will be completed once all other assessment tasks are completed and submitted.
- Submit all assessment tasks and paperwork electronically for marking and review. Take photos or scan any relevant templates, materials, cue cards, and signage that were used to create activities and roles for the two people with whom you are undertaking case studies. If you are unable to submit electronically, you must contact your AMI Educator to discuss alternative methods of submission. Your work will be reviewed with your AMI Educator via email, online, phone Skype or in person.
- Schedule a time to present your case studies to your AMI Educator.

Forms that must be completed and submitted electronically to Jennifer@BrushDevelopment.com:

1. Registration Form
2. Certification Assessment Forms
 - a. Student Information
 - b. Consent Form. A written consent to collect case study information and to video record individuals (if applicable) participating in Montessori activities and roles.
 - c. Reading Screening
 - d. Interests and Hobbies
 - e. Roles and Activities
 - f. Planning Meaningful Engagement
 - g. Activity & Role Detail Forms
 - h. Activity/Role Instruction Sheets
 - i. Montessori Record Keeping Log
 - j. Supervisors Report
3. Copies or photographs of all materials

Please Note:

- We strongly suggest you keep a copy of submitted assessment tasks for your own records. All assessment tasks must be completed and emailed to your AMI Educator. Incomplete assessments will be returned unmarked.
- Use only initials or first names of individuals to ensure anonymity.
- All assessment tasks, the multiple choice quiz and your presentation session will be graded to determine an outcome of 'Competent' or 'Not Yet Competent'. You will be given the opportunity to revise what you submit within 60 days.
- To assist with the marking of your assessment, please type into the electronic forms that follow.